

Amendments to the Claims:

Below is a listing of all claims using a strikethrough and underlining to show changes.

1. (currently amended) An optical fiber array comprising:

5 a plurality of plate-like through-hole array boards, with each array board each
~~made of a plate-like board~~ having a plurality of through-holes provided at regular
 intervals in a direction substantially perpendicular to a board surface of said plate-like
 board, and a plurality of optical fibers having end portions inserted and held in said
 plurality of through-hole arrays boards, wherein:

10 said plurality of through-hole array boards are laminated so as to be in contact
 with one another; and

each of said plurality of through-hole array boards have an identical shape and an
identical hole arrangement relative to each other, whereby the optical fibers are fixed by
relatively displacing boards such ~~said plurality of through hole array boards are~~
 15 ~~positioned in such a manner~~ that center axes of corresponding through-holes formed in
 said boards are relatively displaced from a coaxial position so that each optical fiber
 inserted in said corresponding through-holes comes into contact with inner walls of said
 corresponding through-holes at a plurality of points.

20 2. (original) An optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein each of said through-
 holes is shaped like a circle, an ellipse, or an oblong in section.

3. (original) An optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein each of said through-
 holes is shaped like a polygon or a rounded-corner polygon in section.

25 4. (original) An optical fiber array according to Claim 1, wherein said optical fibers are
 perpendicular to surfaces of said plurality of through-hole array boards or inclined at a
 predetermined angle in a predetermined direction with respect to the surfaces of said
 plurality of through-hole array boards.

5. (original) An optical fiber collimator array comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 1 and a planar microlens array having a lens interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.
- 5 6. (original) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber collimator array defined in claim 5 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to a collimator interval of said optical fiber collimator array.
- 10 7. (previously presented) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 1 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.
- 15 8. (previously presented) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 2 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.
- 20 9. (previously presented) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 3 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.
- 25 10. (previously presented) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 4 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.
- 30 11. (new claim) An optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein each of said array boards are relatively displaced so that the fibers are fixedly held at a non-perpendicular orientation with respect to the array boards.
12. (new claim) An optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein the array comprises three array boards.